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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/994,850 Confirmation No.: 8454
Inventor: : Kozo Akiyoshi et al.
Filed: : November 28, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2621
Examiner: : Helen Shibru
Docket No. : 13831
Customer No. : 000293

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this response.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this response.